

Indiana Wood Preserving Co.

TERRE HAUTE INDUSTRY ON PARADE WITH INDIANA WOOD PRESERVING CO.

Photos by Martin



THE
TERRE HAUTE
TRIBUNE-STAR
August 12, 1963.
TERRE HAUTE,
INDIANA

Indiana Wood Preserving Company, 2525 Prairieton Road.

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Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

The history of Terre Haute's Indiana Wood Preserving Company dates back to 1910 when it was founded by Joseph Card, father of Richard Card, now president of the firm.

Located at 2525 Prairieton Road, the company employs approximately 50 persons and its products are used throughout the Midwest and East Coast. One of the products, treated railroad ties, is even widely used in Canada.

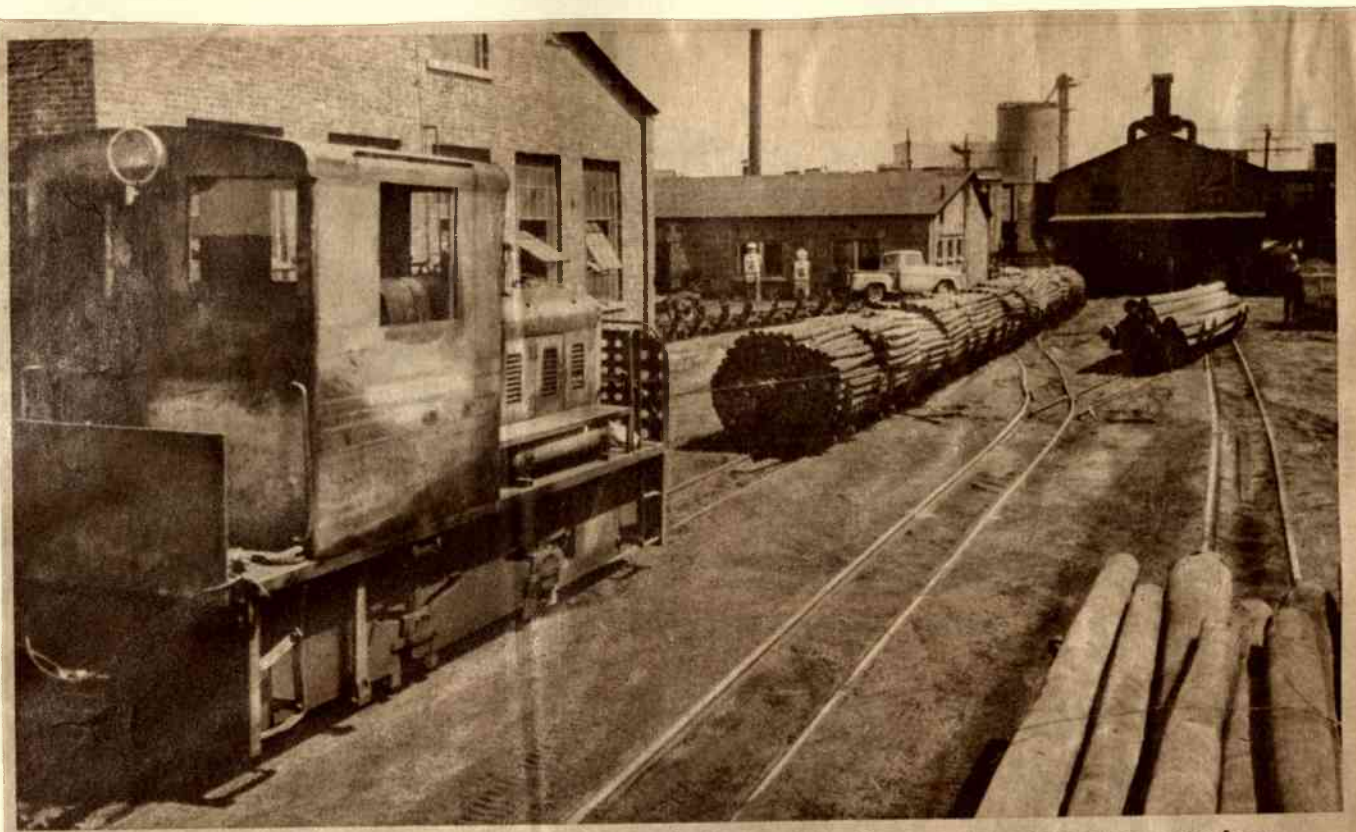
The company provides a treating service for railroad crossties and switch ties. Among its own products are bridge lumber and piling, fence posts, barn poles, utility poles and general lumber.

Several different types of treatment are used for the diversified products produced by the company. All products are made to meet the standards established by the American Wood Preservers Association.

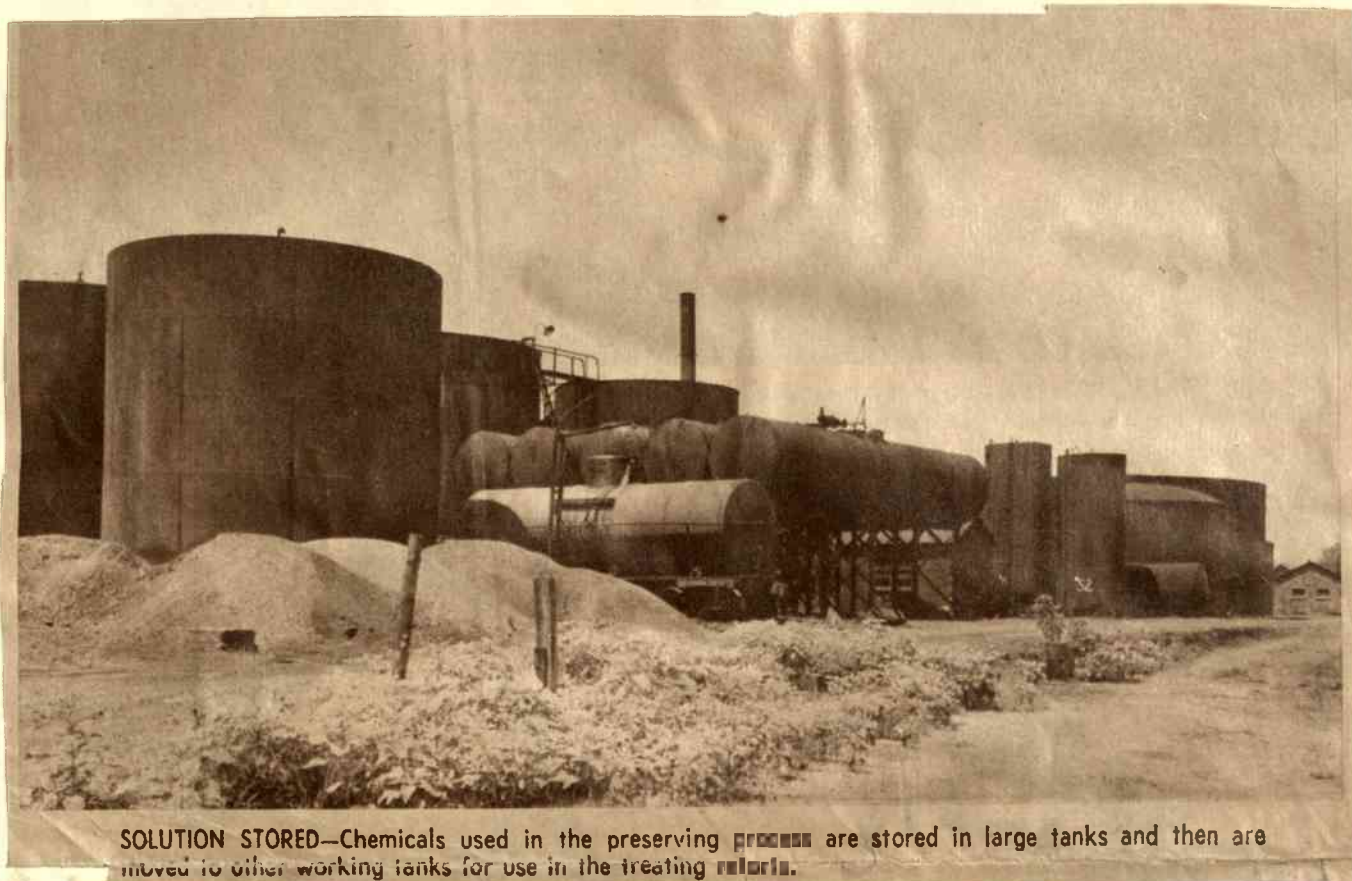
The wood is treated in four retort or treating cylinders. One is 100 feet in length, two are 178 feet long and the longest, 180 feet long, is tied with one other for being the largest in the United States.



LOADING OPERATION—A lift truck is shown loading fence posts onto tram cars which, when enough cars are loaded, will be pushed into the retort to be pressure treated.



BIG OPERATION—A small gauge diesel locomotive is shown pulling fence posts loaded on tram cars from a retort following treatment. About 1,600 such fence posts can be treated at once in the process.

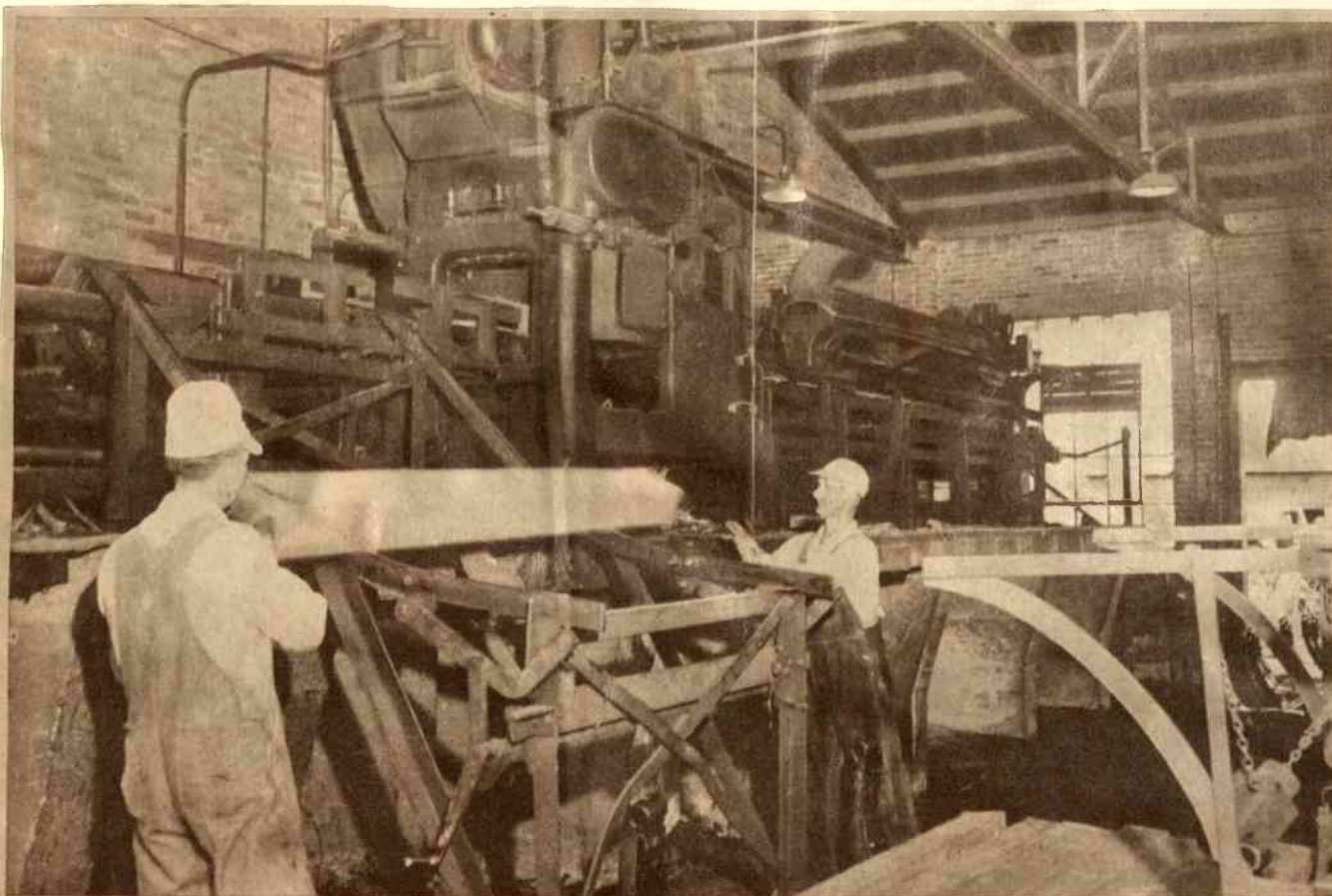


SOLUTION STORED—Chemicals used in the preserving process are stored in large tanks and then are moved to other working tanks for use in the treating plants.

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YARDS BUSY—The storage yards are a busy place with loading and unloading going on at all times. Here the wood, after being treated, is yarded.



READY TIES—Workmen Frank Bean, on the left, and Elvin Hensley handle a railroad tie from an adzing and boring mill after it has been readied for treatment.



TIES TREATED—One of the company's main operations is the treating of railroad ties. A locomotive is pictured pushing trams loaded with ties in a retort for treatment. The company's largest retort will hold 21 tram cars and will treat 800 ties at one time.

Inmed

Jobs gone, tools of trade sold

Pieces of closed Sullivan plant on sale

TS MAR 22 1987
By Marilyn Salesman
Tribune-Star Correspondent

SULLIVAN — Remnants of 30 years of work for many Sullivan County residents went on the auction block this week when auctioneer Steve Patterson began selling the contents of the Inmed manufacturing plant.

Inmed, which manufactured latex medical supplies such as catheters, was once the county's largest employer. At its peak, more than 300 people worked there. But activity has trailed off in recent years and employment dropped below 200, then down to about 100. The facility went through several ownership changes, and late last year, the recurrent rumor about the plant's closing finally came true.

Inmed officials were forced to close the plant, they said, because of new, more stringent government pricing regulations on the merchandise it manufactured.

There are three Inmed plants left in the U.S., Goodman said. All are located in Georgia.

The production once done in Sullivan has been moved overseas to Malaysia. The company won't have to pay its employees as much there, so labor costs will be cheaper.

Jim Goodman, an Inmed executive vice-president, watched the auction from the sidelines.

Goodman said Inmed would like to sell the 67,000 square-foot Sullivan facility.

"It's priced at a fire-sale price," he said. Three businesses have approached Inmed about buying the facility, Goodman said, adding that so far, none have expressed a serious interest in it.

Goodman said he has been responsible, in the Inmed corporate structure, for the Sullivan facility for two years.

"Ian [plant manager Ian Bobbitt] and I worked hard to try to salvage it," he said. "But the building is too big and the competition is too tough."

Looking around the crowd of about 100 people attending the auction, Goodman recognized a few former Inmed employees.

"There's no way we have the same feelings they do," he said. "We try to understand how they feel to be out of a job. They understood why we had to do it."

Goodman credited Bobbitt with bringing in people from different

agencies, including the unemployment office, to help employees understand what benefits they are eligible for and to help them prepare to find new jobs. Bobbitt personally wrote all letters of recommendation for the employees, Goodman said.

Bobbitt, a Sullivan native, has chosen to remain in the area. He had been at the Sullivan plant for 16 years.

The impact of the plant closing on the community will be dramatic,

Bobbitt said. "It will be pretty tough. The payroll in 1986 was \$3.5 million. It will have a pretty dramatic impact."

Bobbitt estimated that more than 80 percent of the employees were women, many of them heads of households.

Although many of the workers expect to find other jobs, 76-year-old Bill Boles of Sullivan doubts that he will be so lucky.

Boles, who will work as a security guard at the plant until the end of the month, has been at Inmed for 15 years. "This has been a nice place to work," he said Wednesday as he surveyed the pallets of motors, fire extinguishers and other equipment that would soon take their turns on the auction block.

"There's only four of us left now — me, one in the office, one in maintenance and the boss. Friday's his last day."

"It's really a tragedy," Boles said of the closing. Some of those who lost their jobs needed the work badly, he said.

As Inmed prepared to wrap up the last loose ends of its Sullivan

operation, onlookers watched with interest. Two men who were closely inspecting the equipment said they were employees of an Inmed competitor.

Although they declined to give their names or the name or location of their company, they said they were attending the auction because they were curious about the type of equipment at the Inmed facility.

One of the men said the company they represent is international in scope and produces much of its labor-intensive products in foreign countries.

"You have to change to be able to compete," one of the men said. He noted that much of the equipment being auctioned is outdated.

Some of the equipment was moved to Georgia before Wednesday's sale, plant officials said.

Meanwhile, time cards of Inmed's former employees stood neatly in place in the middle of the empty building.

"Twenty-two years," muttered one Sullivan man, as he walked through his former workplace. "I guess I've seen all I want to," he said, as he turned to leave.

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IBM

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City greets new \$1.7 million IBM building

Business & Industry (WI)-IBM
J 3 AUG 15 1987

Downtown Terre Haute welcomed a new neighbor Friday as city and corporate officials met at the crossroads of America and opened the doors of the International Business Machines Corp. building.

The \$1.7 million building is home to 60 employees, who moved in two

weeks ago. IBM was formerly at 22 N. Fifth St., but the business outgrew office space there. Their new home is 16,000 square feet on the northwest corner of Seventh Street and Wabash Avenue.

Public open houses are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., marketing manager

Dave Rusk said.

The Vigo County Historical Society presented IBM with a plaque signifying the importance of the spot as the crossroads of America. IBM employees also gave their bosses a plaque that expressed their gratitude to IBM's commitment to Terre Haute.

Clinton First

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Iron Foundry Era Recalled in Wabash Valley

By FAYE L. FLYNN
Tribune Valley Writer

BLOOMFIELD, Ind. (Special) — The Wabash Valley touched its first industrial greatness about 1840.

Iron ore of good quality was found on Brouillet's Creek, about six miles west of Clinton. An iron furnace was put in operation at the site of the ore. It employed as many as 75 men and turned out about 10 tons of finished metal each 24 hours.

Under the management of E. B. Sparks & Co. the furnace was in production for a little more than 20 years, part of that time being spent in making firebrick.

Other furnaces were set up at about the same time but due to miscalculations of the ore supplies their outputs were short lived. The exception was the Richland Furnace, less than two miles south of Bloomfield, in Greene County.

In 1841, Andrew Downing, a local merchant, completed and had put into operation the buildings and machinery for a blast furnace capable of handling the thick veins of good quality ore that lined the banks of Richland Creek. And not far away, on Plummer's Creek, there was a rich vein of ore that averaged nine feet in thickness and formed a bench on each bank.

The furnace stack was 45 feet high and it was nine feet across the boashes. The blowing cylinders were 42 inches in diameter and had a six feet stroke.

The labor force was about equally divided; those who worked the furnace and those who operated the charcoal pits; both on a 24-hour basis of two 12-hour shifts. It required an experienced collier to manage the

pit just as the furnace required an experienced foundryman to produce the pig-iron. Under the guidance of David Grant the furnace was a financial success from the very beginning.

By 1848, Mr. Downing had acquired three partners and a small steamboat which they named "The Richland." The enterprise was kept improved and when it converted from charcoal to coal the stepped-up production required more than a hundred men to turn out the hollow iron ware for the growing market.

The kettles ranged in size from seven to 40 gallons capacity. Stoves, plows, farm castings, mill machinery and small kitchen wares were in demand from as far away as New Orleans. The price of pig-iron had jumped from five dollar a ton to as high as 40 dollars a ton in Louisville, Ky.

In 1856, a new engine of about 100 horsepower was installed at the furnace. The village surrounding the iron works had exceeded Bloomfield in population having gone beyond 600, who lived in small shacks hastily put together with rough-sawed company timber.

But with the new grist mill, an abundance of coal for heating the shacks, and the upsweep in their finances, the villagers dreamed of an unlimited expansion to their Utopia. But that same year the peak in production was reached.

About the time the peak was reached the partners left Mr. Downing. But he was soon joined by Chauncey Rose, of Terre Haute, and two other partners. The capital was increased and Henry Irons, an experienced iron manufacturer, of Kentucky, was made manager of the furnace.

From 40 to 45 per cent iron was reclaimed from the ore, and in 1858, the company realized a \$2,000 profit. The total value of the land and the property had also climbed to a value of \$200,000.

Not-with-standing the handsome profits being realized, during the years 1858-1859, trouble arose in the company and the furnace operations came to a sudden halt.

In a surprisingly short time the furnace proper and the village of Furnace and its adjuncts were abandoned. The merchants and the bank re-established themselves in Bloomfield, leaving only the grist-flour mill in operation.

By 1860, the era for the forge and furnace built at the sight of the ore supply had almost vanished. The trend was to build the furnace where there was an abundance of coal. The Lafayette Blast Furnace, on Otter Creek, about a mile south of Brazil, and the Brazil furnace owned by Garlick and Collins were but two throughout the Valley that fell into this more popular and profitable category. The furnaces used Missouri and Lake Superior ores combined with the smaller portions of local ores. But this method also proved impractical.

The Phoenix Foundry established itself in Terre Haute, in 1865; the Vigo Iron Company in 1869; and the Wabash Iron Company in 1873.

These three furnaces all used Missouri ore. The Vigo Iron Company outlasted the other two, and operated until 1895. But each in a measure had contributed substantially to the growth of the Valley.

Iron Foundry

Ivy Hill

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Business and Industry (WV) - 1

Warner Communications buys local Ivy Hill plant

DEC 07 1988

Ivy Hill, a local manufacturer of printed packaging material, has been sold to Warner Communications of New York City, plant manager Don Ford confirmed Monday.

Ford scotched rumors that the entire operation, which began in 1975 and is housed in the Fort Harrison Industrial Park on the city's northeast side, would be moved to a new site. "There will be no movement of this plant. It will be business as usual."

Jeff Holmes, Warner senior vice president, confirmed from his New York City office Tuesday that there would be no changes either in employment or operation. "It's a terrific facility, and we are not going to close it, period," he said.

Holmes said that the merger was a good marriage between a supplier and a customer, and that "the combination will result in us doing better in the future, with benefits for us both."

Holmes sidestepped the question of what it cost to close the deal, saying only that it was a medium-sized transaction.

When contacted Tuesday, Ford agreed the sale of the plant to Warner was a good move for both sides, and predicted that things would only get better with the merger.

"Warner purchased Ivy Hill for a long-term investment," Ford said. "We are their largest supplier and they are our largest customer."

The merger should have little impact on the employment picture at the local plant, which employs 373 workers, Ford said. "If anything, I would hope that it would probably have an impact on the job market," he explained. He would not say if there would be an increase in employment as a result of the sale to Warner.

One reason he cited for the plant staying here is that the company recently invested in four printing presses with a total investment of approximately \$6 million.

The company manufactures jackets for records and boxes for electronic tapes and packaging for a host of home and health care products.

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